UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/52/82
26 February 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Fifty-second session
Item 100 (a) of the preliminary list*

ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Note by the Secretary-General

The first part of the tenth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, was held in New York from 6 to 17 January 1997. The Secretary-General has the honour to submit to the General Assembly, annexed to the present note, the report on that session.

* A/52/50.

97-05055 (E) 310397 020497

/...

ANNEX

Report of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, on the first part of its tenth session

CONTENTS

		Paragraphs	Page
I.	INTRODUCTION	1	4
II.	ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS	2 - 13	4
	A. Officers of the Committee	2 - 3	4
	B. Adoption of the agenda	4	5
	C. Attendance	5 - 10	5
	D. Documentation	11	6
	E. Accreditation of non-governmental organizations	12 - 13	6
III.	PREPARATION FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES	14 - 47	7
	A. Recommendations of Working Group I	15 - 24	7
	B. Recommendations of Working Group II	25 - 32	8
	C. Decisions taken without reference to a working group	33 - 47	9
IV.	SPECIAL ACTION	48 - 49	11
V.	STATUS OF SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION	50 - 52	11
VI.	REVIEW OF THE SITUATION AS REGARDS EXTRABUDGETARY FUNDS	53 - 60	12
VII.	ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE FIRST PART OF ITS TENTH SESSION	61	13

CONTENTS (continued)

Page

Appendices

I. List of documents before the Committee at the first part of its tenth session 14

II. Decisions adopted by the Committee at the first part of its tenth session 17

A. Decisions adopted by the Committee 17

B. Draft decision recommended for adoption by the General Assembly 42

III. Summary by the Chairman on the question of special action..... 43

I. INTRODUCTION

Opening and duration of the session

1. The first part of the tenth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, was held in New York from 6 to 17 January 1997. The session was convened in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 50/112 of 20 December 1995 entitled "Elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa". At the first part of its tenth session, the Committee held 7 meetings (1st to 7th).

II. ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS

A. Officers of the Committee

2. At its 2nd meeting, on 7 January, the Committee elected by acclamation Mr. Fassassi Adam Yacoubou (Benin) as Vice-Chairman of the Committee, to replace Mr. René Valéry Mongbé (Benin), who was unable to continue his functions on the Bureau.

3. The Bureau of the Committee, as elected at its sixth, eighth, ninth and tenth sessions, is as follows:

Chairman: Mr. Bo Kjellén (Sweden)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Fassassi Adam Yacoubou (Benin)
Mr. Alok Jain (India)
Mr. José Urrutia (Peru)

Rapporteur: Mr. Anatoli M. Ovchinnikov (Uzbekistan)

Working Group I

Chairman: Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud Ould El Ghaouth (Mauritania)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Mohammad Reza H. K. Jabbary (Islamic Republic of Iran)
Mr. Erwin Ortiz-Gandarillas (Bolivia)
Mr. Franklin C. Moore (United States of America)

Working Group II

Chairman: Mr. Takao Shibata (Japan)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. David Etuket (Uganda)
Mr. Samvel Baloyan (Armenia)

B. Adoption of the agenda

4. At its 1st meeting, on 6 January, the Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

2. Preparation for the Conference of the Parties.

3. Special action:

   (a) Urgent action for Africa;

   (b) Action taken in the Asian, Latin American and the Caribbean, and Northern Mediterranean regions.

4. Status of signature and ratification of the Convention.

5. Review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds.

6. Adoption of the report of the Committee on its tenth session.

C. Attendance

5. Representatives of the following States attended the session: Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Croatia, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakstan, Kenya, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Swaziland, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Yemen, Zaire and Zambia.

6. Palestine was also represented.

7. The following United Nations offices and organs were represented: United Nations Development Programme, Office to Combat Desertification and Drought, United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

8. The following specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system were represented: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organization, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, World Meteorological Organization, International Fund for Agricultural Development and Global Environment Facility.

9. The following intergovernmental organizations were represented: Agency for Cultural and Technical Cooperation, Arab Maghreb Union, Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee, Centre for Environment and Development for Arab Region and Europe, Council of Europe, European Commission, Intergovernmental Authority on Development, International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, League of Arab States, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Organization of African Unity, Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel, Sahara and Sahel Observatory, Southern African Development Community.

10. The following non-governmental organizations were represented: Amigos de la Tierra (Friends of the Earth, Spain), Association des volontaires pour le développement (A.V.D.), Association des femmes africaines pour la récherche sur le développement (AFARD - CAMEROUN), Association pour la protection de la nature (A.P.N. Sahel), Association pour la protection de la nature et de l'environnement de Kairouan (APNEK), Australian Council for Overseas Aid, Wilderness Society, Bénin "21", Both Ends, Centre de récherche et d'information pour le développement (CRID), CONGAC - Confédération des ONG d'environnement et de développement de l'Afrique centrale, Coopérative d'agriculture et d'élevage de reboisement de Bareina, EarthAction Network - Regional Office, Latin America and the Caribbean, Ecociencia, Fundación Ecuatoriana de Estudios Ecológicos, EcoNews Africa, Enda Inter-Arabe, Environment Liaison Centre International, Environmental Monitoring Group, Environmental Policy and Society (EPOS), Environmentalist Society, Environnement et développement du tiers-monde (ENDA-TM), Espoir, European Environmental Bureau, Fondation centrafricaine pour la sauvegarde des ressources, FOCSARENA, Fundación del Sur, Guinée Ecologie, Journalists Environmental Association of Tanzania, MORABI - Associaçao de Apoio à Auto-Promoçao da Mulher no Desenvolvimento, Mouvement écologique algérien (MEA), Natural Heritage Institute, Nigerian Environmental Study/Action Team (NEST), NOMAD-AID, Projektstelle Umwelt und Entwicklung, PVO/NGO/NRMS (World Learning Inc.), Sahel Défis: Développement, Environment, Formation, Insertion sociale, Sierra Leone Adult Education Association (SLADEA), Society for Conservation and Protection of Environment (SCOPE), Solidarité Canada Sahel, Yonge Nawe Environmental Action Group, Youth for Action, ZERO.

D. Documentation

11. The documents before the Committee at the first part of its tenth session are listed in appendix I to the present report.

E. Accreditation of non-governmental organizations

12. At its 4th meeting, on 15 January, the Committee, bearing in mind paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992 and rule 49 of the rules of procedure of the Committee (A/AC.241/3), decided to approve

the accreditation of the non-governmental organizations listed in document A/AC.241/9/Add.13 and Corr.1 (see appendix II, decision 10/1).

13. At the same meeting, statements of reservation were made by the representatives of Oman (on behalf of the Arab States), the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran with respect to the non-governmental organization referred to in paragraph 10 of document A/AC.241/9/Add.13 and Corr.1, in terms of its participation in the Conference of the Parties (see also letter dated 17 January 1997 from the representative of Oman to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee addressed to the Executive Secretary of the Interim Secretariat (A/AC.241/70)).

III. PREPARATION FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

14. At its 7th meeting, on 17 January, the Committee considered the question of preparation for the Conference of the Parties (agenda item 2). The item was also considered in depth by Working Groups I and II.

A. Recommendations of Working Group I

15. At the 7th meeting, on 17 January, the Chairman of Working Group I, Mr. Mohamed Mahmoud Ould El Ghaouth (Mauritania), reported on the outcome of the deliberations in that Working Group and introduced four draft decisions which were recommended by the Working Group for adoption by the Committee.

16. At the same meeting, Mr. Pierre-Marc Johnson (Canada), who had been charged with coordinating a drafting group on the global mechanism, informed the Committee of the outcome of that drafting group.

Draft decision A/AC.241/WG.I(X)/L.1/Rev.1

17. The Committee adopted draft decision A/AC.241/WG.I(X)/L.1/Rev.1 entitled "Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative and support arrangements" (see appendix II, sect. A, decision 10/2).

Draft decision A/AC.241/WG.I(X)/L.2

18. The Committee considered draft decision A/AC.241/WG.I(X)/L.2 entitled "Identification of an organization to house the global mechanism".

19. Statements were made by the representatives of Greece (on behalf of the member States of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development), the United Republic of Tanzania (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77), and Bolivia, and by the Chairmen of the Working Group and the Committee.

20. The Committee then adopted draft decision A/AC.241/WG.I(X)/L.2, as orally revised by the Chairman of the Working Group in introducing the draft, and as amended during the discussion (see appendix II, sect. A, decision 10/3).

Draft decision A/AC.241/WG.I(X)/L.3

21. The Committee adopted draft decision A/AC.241/WG.I(X)/L.3 entitled "Programme and budget", as orally revised by the Chairman of the Working Group in introducing the draft (see appendix II, sect. A, decision 10/4).

Draft decision A/AC.241/WG.I(X)/L.4

22. The Committee considered draft decision A/AC.241/WG.I(X)/L.4 entitled "Financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the permanent secretariat".

23. The Secretary of the Committee read out a statement on programme budget implications pertaining to the draft decision, indicating that it was the understanding of the Secretariat that the reference to the United Nations in paragraph 7 of the draft decision did not imply any obligation for the United Nations to contribute to the core budget of the Convention.

24. The Committee then adopted draft decision A/AC.241/WG.I(X)/L.4 (see appendix II, sect. A, decision 10/5).

B. Recommendations of Working Group II

25. Also at the 7th meeting, on 17 January, the Chairman of Working Group II, Mr. Takao Shibata (Japan), reported on the outcome of the deliberations in that Working Group and introduced six draft decisions which were recommended by the Working Group for adoption by the Committee.

Draft decision A/AC.241/WG.II(X)/L.1

26. The Committee considered draft decision A/AC.241/WG.II(X)/L.1 entitled "Pules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties" and heard statements by the representatives of Mauritania and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

27. The Committee adopted draft decision A/AC.241/WG.II(X)/L.1, as orally revised by the Chairman of the Working Group in introducing the draft, and as amended during the discussion (see appendix II, sect. A, decision 10/6).

Draft decision A/AC.241/WG.II(X)/L.2

28. The Committee adopted draft decision A/AC.241/WG.II(X)/L.2 entitled "Committee on Science and Technology: reports on modalities and timing of future work on inventories of research, traditional and local technology, knowledge, know-how and practices and on establishment of research priorities" (see appendix II, sect. A, decision 10/7).

Draft decision A/AC.241/WG.II(X)/L.3

29. The Committee adopted draft decision A/AC.241/WG.II(X)/L.3 entitled "Report on work of other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology" (see appendix II, sect. A, decision 10/8).

Draft decision A/AC.241/WG.II(X)/L.4/Rev.1

30. The Committee adopted draft decision A/AC.241/WG.II(X)/L.4/Rev.1 entitled "Report on work being done on benchmarks and indicators" (see appendix II, sect. A, decision 10/9).

Draft decision A/AC.241/WG.II(X)/L.5/Rev.1

31. The Committee adopted draft decision A/AC.241/WG.II(X)/L.5/Rev.1 entitled "Committee on Science and Technology: preparatory measures to put in hand work on networking of institutions, agencies and bodies" (see appendix II, sect. A, decision 10/10).

Draft decision A/AC.241/WG.II(X)/L.6

32. The Committee adopted draft decision A/AC.241/WG.II(X)/L.6 entitled "Organization of the work of the Committee on Science and Technology", as orally revised by the Chairman of the Working Group in introducing the draft (see appendix II, sect. A, decision 10/11).

C. Decisions taken without reference to a working group

Draft decision A/AC.241/L.36

33. At the 7th meeting, on 17 January, the Chairman of the Committee introduced draft decision A/AC.241/L.36 entitled "Participation of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations".

34. Statements were made by the representatives of Benin, the Syrian Arab Republic, Oman and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

35. The Executive Secretary of the Interim Secretariat and the Secretary of the Committee made statements in response to questions raised.

36. The Committee then adopted draft decision A/AC.241/L.36 (see appendix II, sect. A, decision 10/12).

Draft decision A/AC.241/L.38

37. At the 7th meeting, on 17 January, the Chairman of the Committee introduced draft decision A/AC.241/L.38 entitled "Provisional agenda for the first Conference of the Parties".

38. Statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Benin, Japan, Oman and Nigeria, as well as by the Executive Secretary of the Interim Secretariat.

39. The Committee then adopted draft decision A/AC.241/L.38, as orally amended (see appendix II, sect. A, decision 10/13).

Resumed tenth session of the Committee

40. At the 7th meeting, on 17 January, the Chairman summed up the work of the session. He observed that the work of the session had on the whole been very successful, and that there had been good preparation of the Conference of the Parties. The Working Groups had been able to finish their work and the Committee had now made recommendations on all issues to the Conference of the Parties. The substantive negotiations had thus been concluded.

41. There were, however, a number of issues that still needed to be negotiated at the first Conference of the Parties. It was necessary to ensure that it would be successful and serve as a good basis for the continuing work under the Convention. The organization of the Conference of the Parties would have a major impact on the results in substance and, therefore, very thorough preparation was necessary.

42. Against this background, the Chairman had originally considered that preparatory meetings in Rome immediately preceding the Conference of the Parties would have been a satisfactory solution. However, consultations had shown that there were no practical possibilities to organize such consultations.

43. The Chairman, therefore, noted that the only possibility would be to use the facility offered by the General Assembly in its resolutions 50/112 and 51/180, and hold a resumed tenth session of the Committee at Geneva, from 18 to 22 August. That session would serve to ensure adequate preparation for the first Conference of the Parties. Furthermore, the resumed session would consider the work programme in the period following the first session of the Conference of the Parties. Negotiating issues already transmitted to the Conference of the Parties would not be reopened. The session would, however, review developments in the interim period and take stock of any further consultations that might be held between now and the opening of the resumed session.

44. The Chairman also recalled that, by Committee decision 9/5, he had been given a mandate to undertake any consultations that he deemed would be necessary. At the same time, he made it clear that, given the heavy schedule of meetings over the coming months, informal contacts could take place in connection with other intergovernmental meetings.

Proposal made by the Chairman of the Committee

45. At the same meeting, the Chairman proposed that the Committee decide, pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 50/112 and paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 51/180 of 16 December 1996, to hold a resumed tenth session at Geneva from 18 to 22 August 1997.

46. Also at the 7th meeting, following statements by the representatives of the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union), Benin, the United Republic of Tanzania (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77), Bolivia and Mauritania, the Committee adopted the proposal made by the Chairman (see appendix II, sect. A, decision 10/14).

47. Following the adoption of the proposal, statements were made by the representatives of Mauritania, the United Republic of Tanzania (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77), the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union) and Benin.

IV. SPECIAL ACTION

48. The Committee held a discussion on the question of special action: urgent action for Africa (agenda item 3 (a)) and action taken in other regions (item 3 (b)) at its 4th and 5th meetings, on 15 January 1997.

49. A summary by the Chairman on the consideration of the item is contained in appendix III.

V. STATUS OF SIGNATURE AND RATIFICATION OF THE CONVENTION

50. The Committee considered the question of the status of signature and ratification of the Convention (agenda item 4) at its 2nd meeting, on 7 January 1997.

51. The Executive Secretary noted with pleasure that the fiftieth ratification of the Convention had occurred on 27 September 1996 and that the Convention had entered into force on 26 December 1996. He informed the Committee that, to date, 60 countries had ratified or acceded to the Convention. The following countries deposited their instruments of ratification or accession since the conclusion of the ninth session of the Committee: Turkmenistan, Zambia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Haiti, Chad, Swaziland, Nepal, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Jordan, Morocco, India, Ghana, Myanmar, Argentina, Burundi, Yemen, Paraguay, Luxembourg and China.

52. The Executive Secretary stressed the satisfaction of the Secretariat with the actual pace of ratification and accession that had enabled the first Conference of the Parties to be held in 1997. In his concluding remarks, he made an appeal to those countries that had not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to do so as soon as possible in order to participate in the first Conference of the Parties as parties to the Convention. He recalled that the Convention would enter into force for additional States or regional economic integration organizations 90 days after the date they ratified, acceded to or approved it. He noted, accordingly, that, in order to participate from the first day of the first Conference of the Parties, States must have ratified or acceded to the Convention no later than 1 July 1997.

VI. REVIEW OF THE SITUATION AS REGARDS EXTRABUDGETARY FUNDS

53. The Committee considered the question of the review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds (agenda item 5) at its 3rd meeting, on 13 January 1997.

54. The Executive Secretary of the Interim Secretariat introduced the note by the Secretariat on the review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds (A/AC.241/69 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2), which presented the resources made available to activities undertaken in 1996 and those envisaged in 1997 under both the Trust Fund in Support of the Negotiating Process and the Special Voluntary Fund.

55. Delegations expressed general satisfaction and appreciation of what they perceived as effective use of the contributions and the overall positive results which justified such contributions.

56. Delegations from the Group of 77 and China expressed gratitude to donors for their generous contributions which enabled the activities to be carried out and the participation of developing countries, especially the least developed countries, in the sessions of the Committee. They also appealed for continued contributions to enable preparation for and participation at the first Conference of the Parties and the implementation of the secretariat programmes.

57. The role of the future permanent secretariat was also addressed. Representatives of the European Union and OECD countries stressed that there should be no overlapping roles between the global mechanism and the permanent secretariat. Representatives of the Group of 77 and China, on the other hand, were of the opinion that the permanent secretariat should play an important role, not a subsidiary one, with the entry into force of the Convention. They requested, moreover, that the programme and budget to be adopted by the Conference of the Parties should be sufficient to enable the Secretariat to carry out its mandate.

Draft decision A/AC.241/L.37

58. At the 7th meeting, on 17 January, the Chairman introduced and orally revised draft decision A/AC.241/L.37 entitled "Use of the Special Voluntary Fund and the Trust Fund".

59. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted the draft decision, as orally revised (see appendix II, sect. B).

60. After the adoption of the draft decision, statements were made by the representatives of Mauritania, the United Republic of Tanzania (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77), the Netherlands (on behalf of the European Union) and Benin.

VII. ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE FIRST PART OF ITS TENTH SESSION

61. At the 7th meeting, on 17 January, the Committee adopted the draft report on the first part of its tenth session as contained in document A/AC.241/L.35 and authorized the Rapporteur to finalize it by incorporating therein the proceedings of the meetings held and decisions taken in the final meetings of the session.

APPENDIX I

List of documents before the Committee at the first part of its tenth session

Document symbol	Agenda item	Title or description
A/AC.241/9/Add.13 and Corr.1	1	List of non-governmental organizations recommended for accreditation by the Committee
A/AC.241/48/Rev.2	2	Note by the Secretariat on the draft rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties
A/AC.241/62	1	Provisional agenda for the tenth session
A/AC.241/63	2	Note by the Secretariat on the designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: physical location
A/AC.241/64	2	Note by the Secretariat on the designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative arrangements
A/AC.241/65	5	Note by the Secretariat on the programme and budget
A/AC.241/66	2	Note by the Secretariat on a draft proposed programme of work for the Committee on Science and Technology
A/AC.241/67 and Corr.1	2	Note by the Secretariat on the work of other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology
A/AC.241/68	2	Note by the Secretariat on work being done on benchmarks and indicators to measure progress in the implementation of the Convention
A/AC.241/69 and Corr.1 and Add.1 and 2	5	Note by the Secretariat on the review of the situation as regards extrabudgetary funds
A/AC.241/70	3	Note verbale dated 17 January 1997 from the Permanent Mission of Oman to the United Nations addressed to the secretariat of the Convention to Combat Desertification

Document symbol	Agenda item	Title or description
A/AC.241/L.35	6	Draft report of the Committee on the first part of its tenth session
A/AC.241/L.36	2	Draft decision submitted by the Chairman, entitled "Participation of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations"
A/AC.241/L.37	2	Draft decision submitted by the Chairman, entitled "Use of the Special Voluntary Fund and the Trust Fund"
A/AC.241/L.38	2	Draft decision submitted by the Chairman, entitled "Draft provisional agenda for the first Conference of the Parties"
A/AC.241/INF.4 and Corr.1	2	Note by the Secretariat entitled "Report on ongoing work being done on benchmarks and indicators"
A/AC.241/WG.I(X)/L.1/Rev.1	2	Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of Working Group I, entitled "Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative and support arrangements"
A/AC.241/WG.I(X)/L.2	2	Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of Working Group I, entitled "Identification of an organization to house the global mechanism"
A/AC.241/WG.I(X)/L.3	2	Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of Working Group I, entitled "Programme and budget"
A/AC.241/WG.I(X)/L.4	2	Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of Working Group I, entitled "Financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the permanent secretariat"
A/AC.241/WG.II(X)/L.1	2	Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of Working Group II, entitled "Rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties"

Document symbol	Agenda item	Title or description
A/AC.241/WG.II(X)/L.2	2	Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of Working Group II, entitled "Committee on Science and Technology: reports on modalities and timing of future work on inventories of research, traditional and local technology, knowledge, know-how and practices and on establishment of research priorities"
A/AC.241/WG.II(X)/L.3	2	Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of Working Group II, entitled "Report on work of other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology"
A/AC.241/WG.II(X)/L.4/Rev.1	2	Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of Working Group II, entitled "Report on work being done on benchmarks and indicators"
A/AC.241/WG.II(X)/L.5/Rev.1	2	Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of Working Group II, entitled "Committee on Science and Technology: preparatory measures to put in hand work on networking of institutions, agencies and bodies"
A/AC.241/WG.II(X)/L.6	2	Draft decision submitted by the Chairman of Working Group II, entitled "Organization of the work of the Committee on Science and Technology"

APPENDIX II

Decisions adopted by the Committee at the first part of its tenth session

A. Decisions adopted by the Committee

Decision 10/1

Accreditation of non-governmental organizations

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, bearing in mind paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992 and rule 49 of the rules of procedure of the Committee (A/AC.241/3), decides to approve the accreditation of the following non-governmental organizations:

Association de sauvegarde pour le développement économique et social (ASDES)

Association Sahel Nature

Association togolaise pour la promotion humaine (ATPH)

Centre for Alternative Development Strategies (CADS)

Consultation-recherche-education en environnement pour un développement durable en Afrique (CREDA)

Centro de Experimentación y Capacitacion en Tecnologia Apropiada - TEKHNE

EarthAction Network - Regional Office, Latin America and the Caribbean

Ecociencia, Fundación Ecuatoriana de Estudios Ecológicos

EcoNews Africa

EcoPeace

Imo Youth Network Programme, Nigeria

MED-FORUM

Mediterranean Information Office for Environment, Culture and Sustainable Development (MIO-ECSDE)

MORABI - Associaçao de Apoio à Auto-Promoçao da Mulher no Desenvolvimento

Mouvement d'action pour le renouveau social

Movimiento Agroecologico Chileno

Nafa-Gonal

Nigerian Concerned Group for Environment, Population and Development (NCOGEPD)

NOMAD-AID

Sahel Vert

Sierra Leone Adult Education Association (SLADEA)

Youth and Environment Society

Zambia Association for Research and Development (ZARD)

Decision 10/2

Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative and support arrangements

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Recalling its mandate to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994,

Recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopt, at its first session, the following decision concerning the administrative arrangements involved in designating a permanent secretariat and making arrangements for its functioning.

Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning: administrative and support arrangements

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling that the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with article 23, paragraph 3, of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, shall, at its first session, designate a permanent secretariat and make arrangement for its functioning,

Having examined the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the administrative arrangements involved in the designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning,

1. Notes with appreciation the advice of the Secretary-General of the United Nations on this matter, as contained in document A/AC.241/44, as amended in paragraph 4 of document A/AC.241/55, as well as the clarifications in document A/AC.241/64 and related comments made in Working Group I of the Committee;

2. Also notes with appreciation the advice of the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on this matter, as contained in document A/AC.241/55/Add.2, as well as the clarifications in document A/AC.241/64 and related comments made in Working Group I of the Committee;

3. Accepts the offer of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, contained in documents A/AC.241/44 and A/AC.241/55, for the United Nations to provide the administrative and support arrangements for the Convention secretariat, and requests the Secretary-General to provide these administrative and support arrangements for the permanent secretariat of the Convention, pursuant to article 23 of the Convention;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to appoint, after consultation with the Conference of the Parties, through its Bureau, the Executive Secretary of the Convention, with the term and level of the latter to be decided by the Conference of the Parties;

5. Decides that, in order for the permanent secretariat to enjoy the administrative and financial autonomy necessary to ensure efficient servicing of the Convention and of its implementation, it should not be fully integrated into the work programme and management structure of any particular department or programme of the United Nations;

6. Decides to review these arrangements not later than at its fourth session, in consultation with the Secretary-General, with a view to making such modifications as may be considered desirable by both parties;

7. Requests the Executive Secretary to pursue the question of the allotment of overhead to defer administrative expenses as indicated in the advice of the Secretary-General and to report the results at its second session;

8. Expresses its appreciation to the departments and programmes of the United Nations, as well as agencies of the United Nations system, that have supported the interim secretariat of the Convention and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee process in general, expresses the desire that the support and cooperation given by those departments, programmes and agencies should continue, and invites these entities and the Executive Secretary to collaborate in reaching understandings that specify the nature of cooperation and support that each entity would provide to the permanent secretariat.

Decision 10/3

Identification of an organization to house the global mechanism

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

1. Approves the text in the annex to the present decision, with the exception of section A.4, on the functions of the global mechanism and the criteria for selecting an institution to house it;

2. Decides to transmit the text in the annex to the present decision to the first session of the Conference of the Parties;

3. Invites the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to submit to the interim secretariat, by 1 May 1997, revised versions of any new elements to their offers to house the global mechanism, as contained in document A/AC.241/33, including on the possibility of co-hosting and including the proposed administrative operations of such mechanism, taking full account of the annex to the present decision, as well as proposed budgetary implications for the functioning of the global mechanism;

4. Requests the interim secretariat to compile the submissions from IFAD and UNDP in a document to be presented to the first session of the Conference of the Parties.

Annex

FUNCTIONS OF THE GLOBAL MECHANISM AND CRITERIA FOR SELECTING AN INSTITUTION TO HOUSE IT

A. Functions of the global mechanism

In order to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of existing financial mechanisms, a global mechanism is established to promote actions leading to the mobilization and channelling of substantial financial resources.

In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, in particular articles 7, 20 and 21, and the financial provisions of relevant regional implementation annexes, the global mechanism shall function under the authority and guidance of the Conference of the Parties, including on policies, operational modalities and activities, and be accountable and make regular reports to it, according to the principles of transparency, neutrality and universality. The global mechanism, in carrying out its mandate under article 21, paragraph 4, should perform the following functions:

1. Collecting and disseminating information

(a) Identify potential sources of financing from bilateral donors, the United Nations system, multilateral financial institutions, regional and subregional financial mechanisms, and non-governmental organizations, foundations and other private sector entities, and establish relationships and maintain contacts with them.

(b) Establish and update an inventory of the financial needs of affected developing country Parties for carrying out action programmes, as well as other relevant activities related to the implementation of the Convention, on the basis of information provided under relevant articles of the Convention.

(c) Identify and draw up an inventory of relevant bilateral and multilateral cooperation programmes and available financial resources in the form of a comprehensive database, incorporating information both from Parties and from various financial mechanisms, comprising:

(i) Sources of available financing through bilateral and multilateral agencies, including their funding patterns and eligibility criteria, using reports to the Conference of the Parties by Parties and all other available data;

(ii) Sources of financing from non-governmental organizations, foundations, academic institutions and other private sector entities that might be encouraged to provide funding, including their funding patterns and eligibility criteria;

(iii) National funding in affected country Parties to finance actions designed to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought.

(d) Disseminate information collected in accordance with paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) to Parties on a regular basis and make it available, on request, to interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations.

2. Analysing and advising on request

(a) Promote the matching of available resources to the projects and programmes of affected developing countries related to combating desertification, including assisting them to find new and additional resources for the implementation of the Convention.

(b) Analyse and provide advice on sources of financial assistance and on mechanisms to channel resources to the local, national and subregional levels, including through non-governmental organizations and private sector entities.

(c) Provide advice on the establishment, financing and management of national desertification funds.

(d) Identify, promote and provide advice about innovative methods and incentives for mobilizing and channelling resources.

3. Promoting actions leading to cooperation and coordination

(a) Disseminate information it collects so as to facilitate the assessment of, and exchange of information on, the effectiveness of financial assistance, including its accessibility, predictability, flexibility, quality and local-level orientation.

(b) Provide identified United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, and multilateral financial institutions, with information and stimulate coordination among them, including in multiple-source financing.

(c) Encourage, and facilitate coordination through the provision of information and other measures concerning relevant multiple-source financing approaches, mechanisms and arrangements, such as co-financing, parallel financing, consortia and joint programmes.

(d) Increase awareness of the Convention, and promote the participation in its implementation, of identified foundations, academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and other private sector entities and facilitate contacts with them by interested Parties, in order to contribute to the mobilization and channelling of substantial financial resources.

(e) Provide information, making use of the Conference of the Parties and other relevant existing forums, that will:

(i) Facilitate discussion of relevant issues in the governing bodies of multilateral financial institutions;

(ii) Inform Parties about the eligibility criteria and projects of international financial instruments and mechanisms, including particularly the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as they relate to implementation of the Convention;

(iii) Inform affected country Parties about each other's relevant activities;

(iv) Disseminate methodologies developed by Parties to identify and prioritize the financial needs of action programmes at all levels;

(v) Promote full use and continued improvement of the funding sources to be utilized for the implementation of the Convention referred to in relevant articles of the Convention.

(f) Identify and then provide information and advice on financing sources for the transfer, acquisition, adaptation and development of environmentally sound, economically viable and socially acceptable technologies relevant to combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought.

(g) Promote partnership building as it relates to the support of the mobilization of financial resources for the implementation of the Convention at the local, national, subregional and regional levels.

(h) Facilitate the financing of information exchange on best practices utilized in combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought at the local level in affected developing country Parties.

4. Mobilizing and channelling financial resources

(a) Promote actions leading to the mobilization and channelling of financial resources to all levels in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

(b) Undertake actions and/or activities, in partnership particularly with developed country Parties, and relevant institutions, that shall, consistent with [article 21, para. 4] of the Convention, mobilize and maximize for the purpose of the Convention adequate and substantial financial resources, including, [as agreed in the Convention] [consistent with the Convention], new and additional resources, on a grant or, if necessary, concessional basis, to fund activities under action programmes of affected developing country Parties, particularly those in Africa, at all levels in conformity with the Convention and with the particular conditions of the regions of relevant regional implementation annexes.

(c) Promote the use of existing bilateral and multilateral financial mechanisms and arrangements that mobilize and channel substantial financial resources to affected developing country Parties in combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.

(d) Undertake actions and/or activities [leading to] [for] the mobilization of adequate, timely and predictable financial resources, including new and additional funding from the Global Environment Facility of the agreed incremental costs of those activities concerning desertification that relate to its four focal areas, in conformity with the relevant provisions of the instrument establishing the Global Environment Facility.

(e) Direct and guide the resources mobilized for the purpose of the Convention, including its own resources, made available from bilateral and multilateral sources, as appropriate, in a predictable and timely fashion to national, subregional and regional levels for the implementation of action programmes and projects to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in affected developing country Parties, particularly those in Africa.

Or

(e) Guide and direct, as requested and as appropriate, the allocation of resources mobilized for the purpose of the Convention, including resources made available for the global mechanism for its activities by bilateral and multilateral sources through the host or other organizations in a predictable and timely fashion to local, national, subregional and regional levels for the implementation of action programmes and projects to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in affected developing country Parties, particularly those in Africa.

(f) Encourage, in conjunction with the Conference of the Parties, the provision, through various mechanisms within the United Nations system and through multilateral financial institutions, of support at the national, subregional and regional levels to activities that enable developing country Parties to meet their obligations under the Convention.

(g) Increase the efficiency and effectiveness of existing financial mechanisms and collaborate with them to facilitate and catalyse the mobilization and channelling by them of adequate and substantial financial resources, including new and additional resources, for implementation of the Convention.

(h) Play, among other functions, a catalytic role, in ensuring the availability of resources for project and programme design and implementation from bilateral and multilateral sources.

(i) Promote and facilitate, through the actions in paragraphs (a) to (h):

(i) The transfer, acquisition, adaptation and development of environmentally sound, economically viable and socially acceptable technologies, knowledge, know-how and practices relevant to combating desertification and/or mitigating the effects of drought in affected developing countries, in conformity with the Convention.

(ii) The use of indigenous and traditional knowledge and technologies, as well as local expertise, at all levels in affected developing countries.

5. Reporting to the Conference of the Parties

(a) Provide reports to the sessions of the Conference of the Parties on its activities, including in those reports the following:

(i) The operations and activities of the global mechanism, including the effectiveness of its activities in promoting the mobilization and channelling of the substantial financial resources referred to in paragraph 4 (a) above to affected developing country Parties;

(ii) The assessment of future availability of funds for implementation of the Convention, as well as assessment and proposals for effective ways and means of providing such funds.

B. Criteria for selecting an institution to house the global mechanism

1. Functional capacity

(a) Relevance of the mandate, general objectives and activities of the institution to the overall objective of the global mechanism "to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of existing financial mechanisms", and to its mission "to promote actions leading to the mobilization and channelling of substantial financial resources, including for the transfer of technology, on a grant basis, and/or on concessional or other terms, to affected developing country Parties".

(b) Capacity of the institution to organize the global mechanism to perform its functions efficiently in order to assist the Conference of the Parties, as well as individual Parties and groups of Parties, particularly those in Africa, to meet Convention obligations regarding financing.

(c) Modalities by which the institution would perform the functions of the global mechanism, including necessary arrangements with other entities.

(d) Context which the institution offers for establishing effective relationships with other relevant entities, including its experience with, and knowledge of, operations of national, bilateral, regional and multilateral financial institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations and other private-sector entities.

(e) Knowledge of the institution regarding desertification and drought issues in all regions, and its experience working with government, local communities, non-governmental organizations and other entities in affected developing countries, particularly those in Africa, in dryland management, local-area development and other relevant fields.

(f) Experience and capacity of the institution in supporting research activities and in facilitating the transfer, acquisition, adaptation and development of environmentally sound, economically viable and socially acceptable technologies.

(g) Experience and capacity of the institution to assist affected developing countries Parties in dealing with poverty eradication and development issues, in conformity with the priority to Africa accorded in article 7 of the Convention.

(h) Exhibition by the institution in practice of the principles of transparency, neutrality and universality in its management and its operations.

2. Relationship to the Conference of the Parties

(a) Status of the global mechanism within the institution, including organizational and administrative arrangements to ensure accountability to the Conference and responsiveness to Conference guidelines.

(b) Modalities of global mechanism accountability to the Conference and reporting on global mechanism activities.

(c) Procedures for the Conference to enter into agreements with the institution regarding global mechanism functions and modalities, including the nature, form and timing.

3. Administrative and other support

(a) Administrative infrastructure available to support activities of the global mechanism, including location, office space, personnel, financial, communications, information management and field office frameworks.

(b) Modalities of staffing the global mechanism.

(c) Projected costs of operation of the global mechanism, the extent to which the institution would absorb them and the nature of charges to the Conference of the Parties for costs not absorbed, if any.

Decision 10/4

Programme and budget

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Recalling that article 22, paragraph 2 (g) of the Convention requires the Conference of the Parties to approve a programme and budget for its activities,

1. Requests the interim secretariat, in accordance with paragraph 1 of the draft financial rules recommended to the Conference of the Parties by the Committee, as contained in the annex to decision 10/5, to circulate, at least ninety days prior to the first session of the Conference of the Parties, necessary draft decisions related to the programme of work and budget of the Conference of the Parties, as well as detailed budget estimates for the biennium 1998-1999;

2. Further requests the interim secretariat to carry out the tasks referred to in paragraph 1 on the basis of documents A/AC.241/65 and A/AC.241/46, and taking full account of comments made on this subject by delegations at the tenth and earlier sessions of the Committee, as well as any comments from Member States received by 15 February 1997.

Decision 10/5

Financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the permanent secretariat

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Recalling its mandate to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994,

Recommends that the Conference of the Parties adopt, at its first session, the following decision regarding the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the permanent secretariat:

Financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the permanent secretariat

The Conference of the Parties,

Considering the provisions of the Convention, particularly article 22, paragraph 2 (e), which stipulates that the Conference of the Parties shall

adopt, at its first session, financial rules for itself and any subsidiary bodies,

Having examined the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the financial rules of the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the permanent secretariat,

Decides to adopt the financial rules annexed to the present decision.

Annex

FINANCIAL RULES FOR THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA, ITS SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND THE PERMANENT SECRETARIAT

Scope

1. The present rules shall govern the financial administration of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, its subsidiary bodies and the permanent secretariat. Insofar as not specifically provided by the present rules, the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations shall apply.

Financial period

2. The financial period shall be a biennium, of which the first calendar year shall be an even-numbered year.

Budget

3. The head of the permanent secretariat shall prepare the budget estimates for the following biennium in United States dollars showing projected income and expenditures for each year of the biennium concerned. The head of the permanent secretariat shall dispatch the estimates to all Parties to the Convention at least ninety days before the opening of the session of the Conference of the Parties at which the budget is to be adopted.

4. The Conference of the Parties shall, prior to the commencement of the financial period that the budget covers, consider the budget estimates and adopt by consensus a core budget authorizing expenditures other than those referred to in paragraphs 9 and 10.

5. Adoption of the core budget by the Conference of the Parties shall constitute authority to the head of the permanent secretariat to incur obligations and make payments for the purposes for which the appropriations were approved and up to the amounts so approved, provided always that, unless

specifically authorized by the Conference of the Parties, commitments shall be covered by related income.

6. The head of the permanent secretariat may make transfers within each of the main appropriation lines of the approved core budget. The head of the permanent secretariat may also make transfers between such appropriation lines up to limits which the Conference of the Parties may set as appropriate.

Funds

7. A General Fund for the Convention shall be established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and managed by the head of the permanent secretariat. Contributions made pursuant to paragraph 12 (a), along with any additional contributions to offset core budget expenditures that are made, pursuant to paragraphs 12 (b) and 12 (c), by the Government hosting the permanent secretariat and by the United Nations shall be credited to the General Fund. All core budget expenditures made pursuant to paragraph 5 shall be charged to the General Fund.

8. Within the General Fund there shall be maintained a working capital reserve at a level to be determined from time to time by the Conference of the Parties by consensus. The purpose of the working capital reserve shall be to ensure continuity of operations in the event of a temporary shortfall of cash. Drawdowns from the working capital reserve shall be restored from contributions as soon as possible.

9. A Supplementary Fund shall be established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and managed by the head of the permanent secretariat. The Supplementary Fund shall receive contributions pursuant to paragraphs 12 (b) and (c), other than those specified in paragraphs 7 and 10, including contributions earmarked, in accordance with paragraph 15, for:

(a) Support to the participation of some representatives of non-governmental organizations from affected developing country Parties, particularly the least developed among them, in sessions of the Conference of the Parties;

(b) Facilitation of assistance to affected developing countries in accordance with article 23, paragraph 2 (c), and article 26, paragraph 7, of the Convention;

(c) Other appropriate purposes consistent with the objectives of the Convention.

10. A Special Fund shall be established by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and managed by the head of the permanent secretariat. The Special Fund shall receive contributions pursuant to paragraphs 12 (b) and (c) earmarked to support the participation of representatives of developing, and in particular least developed, country Parties affected by desertification and/or drought, particularly those in Africa, in the sessions of the Conference of the Parties and its subsidiary bodies.

11. In the event that the Conference of the Parties decides to terminate a fund established pursuant to the present rules, it shall so advise the Secretary-General of the United Nations at least six months before the date of termination so decided. The Conference of the Parties shall decide, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations, on the distribution of any uncommitted balances after all liquidation expenses have been met.

Contributions

12. The resources of the Conference of the Parties shall comprise:

(a) Contributions made each year by Parties on the basis of an indicative scale adopted by consensus by the Conference of the Parties, and based on such a scale of assessments of the United Nations as may be adopted from time to time by the General Assembly, adjusted so as to ensure that no Party contributes less than 0.01 per cent of the total, that no one contribution exceeds 25 per cent of the total and that no contribution from a least developed country Party exceeds 0.01 per cent of the total;

(b) Other contributions made by Parties in addition to those made pursuant to paragraph (a);

(c) Contributions from States not Parties to the Convention, as well as governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, and other sources;

(d) The uncommitted balance of appropriations from previous financial periods attributed to the fund concerned;

(e) Miscellaneous income attributed to the fund concerned.

13. The Conference of the Parties shall, in adopting the indicative scale of contributions referred to in paragraph 12 (a), make adjustments to take account of contributions of Parties which are not members of the United Nations, as well as those of regional economic integration organizations that are Parties.

14. In respect of contributions made pursuant to paragraph 12 (a):

(a) Contributions for each calendar year are expected on or before 1 January of that year;

(b) Each Party shall, as far in advance as possible of the date due for the contribution, inform the head of the permanent secretariat of the contribution it intends to make and of the projected timing of that contribution.

15. Contributions made pursuant to paragraphs 12 (b) and (c) shall be used in accordance with such terms and conditions, consistent with the objectives of the Convention, as may be agreed between the head of the permanent secretariat and the contributor. Contributions to the Supplementary Fund referred to in paragraph 9 shall, as appropriate, be placed in sub-accounts.

16. Contributions made pursuant to paragraph 12 (a) from States and regional economic integration organizations that become Parties to the Convention after the beginning of a financial period shall be made pro rata temporis for the balance of that financial period. Consequent adjustments shall be made at the end of each financial period for other Parties.

17. All contributions shall be paid in United States dollars or its equivalent in a convertible currency into a bank account to be designated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the head of the permanent secretariat.

18. The head of the permanent secretariat shall acknowledge promptly all pledges and contributions and shall inform the Parties, once a year, of the status of pledges and payments of contributions.

19. Contributions not immediately required shall be invested at the discretion of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in consultation with the head of the permanent secretariat. The resulting income shall be credited to the appropriate fund or funds referred to in paragraphs 7, 9 and 10.

Accounts and audit

20. The accounts and financial management of all funds governed by the present rules shall be subject to the internal and external audit process of the United Nations.

21. During the second year of the financial period the United Nations shall provide the Parties with an interim statement of accounts for the first year of the financial period. The United Nations shall also, as soon as practicable, provide to the Parties a final audited statement of accounts for the full financial period.

Administrative support costs

22. The Conference of the Parties, under such terms as may from time to time be mutually agreed upon between it and the United Nations, shall reimburse the United Nations from the funds referred to in paragraphs 7, 9 and 10, as the case may be for the purposes of services rendered, including the administration of the relevant fund by the United Nations, to the Conference of the Parties, its subsidiary bodies and the permanent secretariat.

Amendments

23. Any amendment to the present rules shall be adopted by the Conference of the Parties by consensus.

Decision 10/6

Rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Recalling its mandate to prepare for the first Conference of the Parties pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994,

Recommends that the Conference of the Parties, at its first session, adopt the following decision regarding the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties:

Rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties

The Conference of the Parties,

Considering the provisions of the Convention, particularly article 22, paragraph 3, which stipulates that the Conference of the Parties shall adopt, at its first session, its own rules of procedure,

Having examined the recommendations of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties,

Decides to adopt the rules of procedure contained in document _____, with the exception of paragraph 1 of rule 6, paragraph 1 of rule 22, rule 31 and paragraph 1 of rule 47, and provisionally to apply rules 22 and 31 in relation to the size of the Bureau.

Decision 10/7

Committee on Science and Technology: reports on modalities and timing of future work on inventories of research, traditional and local technology, knowledge, know-how and practices and on establishment of research priorities

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Taking note of the report contained in document A/AC.241/66,

1. Invites interested members of the Committee to submit to the interim secretariat by 17 March 1997 suggestions on the modalities and timing of the work of the Committee on Science and Technology on:

(a) Inventories of research, traditional and local technology, knowledge, know-how and practices;

(b) Research priorities;

2. Requests the interim secretariat, drawing on the submissions received pursuant to paragraph 1, to submit an expanded report on the subject, including modalities and timing, for consideration by the Committee on Science and Technology at its first session.

Decision 10/8

Report on work of other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Noting with appreciation the report contained in document A/AC.241/67 regarding work of other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology,

1. Invites interested members of the Committee and competent organizations to make written submissions, to be received by the interim secretariat before 17 March 1997, regarding document A/AC.241/67;

2. Requests the interim secretariat to update its work on identifying other bodies performing work similar to that envisaged for the Committee on Science and Technology, and, in that connection:

(a) To establish an informal open-ended consultative process to assist in this work;

(b) To identify, as well, in addition to the categories already identified, regional and subregional organizations with bodies performing work similar to that envisaged to be undertaken by the Committee on Science and Technology;

(c) To take account of comments made on this subject, including those relating to the transfer of technology, in Working Group II during the tenth session of the Committee, as well as the written submissions referred to in subparagraph (a);

3. Further requests the interim secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties on the work undertaken in accordance with paragraph 2.

Decision 10/9

Report on work being done on benchmarks and indicators

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Noting with appreciation the report regarding the ongoing work being done on benchmarks and indicators (A/AC.241/INF.4 and Corr.1) to measure progress in the implementation of the Convention and the valuable assistance provided by competent organizations already working on this question,

1. Invites interested members of the Committee and competent organizations to make written submissions, to be received by the interim secretariat by 17 March 1997, regarding the report, as well as priorities in future work on benchmarks and indicators;

2. Requests the interim secretariat to continue its work on benchmarks and indicators and, in that connection:

(a) To continue the informal open-ended consultative process it established pursuant to decision 9/12, with the participation of any interested member of the Committee, from any regional and/or subregional groups, and competent governmental and non-governmental organizations;

(b) Within this consultative process, to put particular emphasis on the further elaboration of implementation indicators and the development of a methodology for determining impact indicators;

(c) To further expand the work to encompass the Asian and Latin American and Caribbean regions;

(d) To take account of comments made on this subject in Working Group II during the tenth session of the Committee, as well as the written submissions referred to in paragraph 1 above;

3. Further requests the interim secretariat to report to the Conference of the Parties on the work undertaken in accordance with paragraph 2.

Decision 10/10

Committee on Science and Technology: preparatory measures to put in hand work on networking of institutions, agencies and bodies

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Recalling the requirements of article 25 of the Convention,

Taking note of the report contained in document A/AC.241/66,

1. Requests the interim secretariat to solicit proposals, in accordance with the draft terms of reference contained in annex I to the present decision, from the indicative list of competent organizations contained in annex II, to undertake the survey and evaluation referred to in article 25 of the Convention of existing networks, institutions, agencies and bodies willing to become units of a network that shall support the implementation of the Convention,

2. Further requests the interim secretariat to arrange for the circulation of the executive summaries of the proposals referred to in paragraph 3 of the draft terms of reference prior to the first session of the Conference of the Parties,

3. Recommends that the Committee on Science and Technology:

(a) Review, at its first session, the draft terms of reference and make appropriate recommendations to the Conference of the Parties for their adoption;

(b) Having duly considered the proposals, recommend the most suitable contractor for consideration and approval by the Conference of the Parties at its first session.

Annex I

DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE AND PROPOSED ORGANIZATION OF WORK TO BE UNDERTAKEN ON NETWORKING OF INSTITUTIONS, AGENCIES AND BODIES

1. Phases

Recognizing that a complete inventory and evaluation of all networks, institutions, agencies and bodies will be a lengthy process, it is proposed that the work plan of the survey and evaluation activity of the Committee on Science and Technology will need to be broken into three phases (A/AC.241/66, para. 7), namely:

(a) Identification of the principal potential units, particularly networks;

(b) A pilot, in-depth survey and evaluation of potential units in a particular region and subregion;

(c) Replication of the pilot survey and evaluation of units in other regions and subregions.

In all three phases, the units surveyed and evaluated will include governmental, intergovernmental, non-governmental, academic and other private sector entities. Pursuant to the proposed programme of work outlined above, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee seeks proposals for services from a competent contractor to carry out the preliminary survey and evaluation of "potential units, particularly existing networks" and to suggest a methodology for carrying out the second and third phases, for consideration at the first session of the Committee on Science and Technology.

2. Tasks expected to be completed by the contractor

(a) Identify the principal existing networks relevant to the effort to combat desertification and their role in areas such as information collection and exchange, research, technology transfer, benchmarks and indicators, capacity-building, policy formulation and local-level activities;

(b) Describe the actual components (including structure, mode of operation and willingness and capacity to contribute to the work of the Convention) as well as categories of users, and map their geographical distributions;

(c) Enumerate the information needs of actual and potential users and the extent to which such needs are being met in relation to the provision of articles 16 to 19 of the Convention;

(d) Identify and describe the linkages among the principal networks, including gaps and possible overlaps;

(e) Elaborate the purposes, methods and benefits of strengthening networks at various levels;

(f) Develop criteria by which institutions, agencies and networks will be evaluated in terms of their capacity and effectiveness in contributing to the implementation of the Convention;

(g) Suggest:

(i) Methods and candidate regions and subregions for in-depth pilot surveys;

(ii) A practical cost-effective methodology to permit the Committee on Science and Technology to update the inventory of networks on a regular basis;

(iii) A strategy by which a global network of networks, institutions, agencies and bodies can be established for the purpose of supporting the implementation of the Convention.

3. Solicitation of bids from organizations

Immediately following the tenth session of the Committee, the interim secretariat shall invite competent organizations, such as those indicated in annex II, to submit proposals to carry out phase 1 activities. The proposals, which can come either from an organization individually or from two or more organizations jointly, must be received by the interim secretariat by 15 May 1997. Each proposal must be accompanied by an executive summary not exceeding six pages in length. Copies of the complete proposals will be available to the members of the Committee on Science and Technology on request.

4. Draft contract

The interim secretariat will prepare a draft contract for consideration and approval by the first session of the Conference of the Parties, upon recommendation of the Committee on Science and Technology.

Annex II

LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS

Arab Centre for the Studies of Arid Zones and Dry Lands (ACSAD), Damascus

China National Centre for Research and Development and Desertification Control, Beijing

Desert Research Centre, Cairo

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Rome

Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Djibouti

International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (ICAMAS), Paris

International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), Hyderabad

International Development Research Centre, Ottawa

International Soil Science Society, Vienna

Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS), Ouagadougou

Sahara and Sahel Observatory, Paris

United Nations Development Programme, New York

United Nations Environment Programme, Nairobi

University of Arizona, Tucson

World Meteorological Organization, Geneva

Decision 10/11

Organization of the work of the Committee on Science and Technology

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Taking note of the report contained in document A/AC.241/66,

Recalling the provisions of article 24, paragraphs 2 and 3, of the Convention relating to the establishment and maintenance of a roster of independent experts with expertise and experience in the relevant fields, and to

the qualifications of such experts of ad hoc panels which may be appointed by the Conference of the Parties,

Recalling further the provisions of the recommendation of the Committee to the Conference of the Parties, contained in decision 9/10, further elaborating on the qualifications of such experts,

1. Invites interested members of the Committee to contribute comments and views on subjects to be discussed at the first session of the Committee on Science and Technology, to be received by the interim secretariat before 17 March 1997;

2. Requests the interim secretariat, bearing in mind the comments made during the tenth session on document A/AC.241/66 and drawing on the comments received pursuant to paragraph 1, to prepare a draft annotated agenda for the first session of the Committee on Science and Technology;

3. Invites Parties to submit in writing, through diplomatic channels, nominations of independent experts with expertise and experience in the relevant fields for the roster referred to in paragraph 2 of article 24 of the Convention, taking into account the need for a multidisciplinary approach, an appropriate gender balance and a broad and equitable geographic distribution;

4. Requests the interim secretariat to prepare a list of nominations received by 31 May 1997, and to submit such list to the first session of the Conference of the Parties for the establishment of the roster of experts, after review by the Committee on Science and Technology.

Decision 10/12

Participation of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee,

Recalling its mandate to prepare for the first session of the Conference of the Parties pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/234 of 23 December 1994,

Recommends that the Conference of the Parties, at its first session, adopt the following decision:

Participation of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling article 22, paragraph 7, of the Convention,

Noting rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties, which provides that any body or agency, whether national or international,

governmental or non-governmental, that is qualified in matters covered by the Convention, and that has informed the permanent secretariat of its wish to be represented at a session of the Conference of the Parties as an observer, may be so admitted unless at least one third of the Parties present object,

Noting also that such rule 7 also provides that such observers may, upon invitation of the President, participate without the right to vote in the proceedings of any session in matters of direct concern to the body or agency they represent, unless at least one third of the Parties present at the session object,

Decides:

(a) To accredit to the first session of the Conference of the Parties the non-governmental organizations previously accredited to sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa, as listed in annex I to the present decision;

(b) To accredit to the first and subsequent sessions of the Conference of the Parties those additional non-governmental organizations that the Secretariat may recommend for accreditation, as listed in annex II to the present decision;

(c) In deciding on the accreditation of additional non-governmental organizations to the second and subsequent ordinary or extraordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties, the Conference of the Parties shall take account of decisions 1/1 and 2/1 concerning the participation of non-governmental organizations as adopted by the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development at its first and second sessions (A/45/46, annex I and A/46/48, annex I). Non-governmental organizations so accredited may participate in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties;

(d) To accord observer status at the first session of the Conference of the Parties to all the intergovernmental organizations previously accorded such status at sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, as listed in annex III to the present decision;

(e) To accord observer status at the first and subsequent sessions of the Conference of the Parties to those additional intergovernmental organizations that the Secretariat may recommend to be accorded such status, as listed in annex IV to the present decision;

(f) In deciding on according observer status to additional intergovernmental organizations to the second and subsequent ordinary or extraordinary sessions of the Conference of the Parties, the Conference of the Parties shall bear in mind the established practice of the General Assembly of the United Nations. Organizations accorded such status may participate in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Conference of the Parties.

Annex I

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS PREVIOUSLY ACCREDITED TO SESSIONS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA

Those non-governmental organizations referred to in the following decisions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee: 1/1,[1] 2/2, 3/1, 4/1, 5/1, 6/1, 7/1, 8/1, 9/1 and 10/1.[2]

Annex II

ADDITIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TO BE ACCREDITED TO THE FIRST AND SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

[To be completed]

Annex III

INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS PREVIOUSLY ACCORDED OBSERVER STATUS AT SESSIONS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA

1. Arab Maghreb Union (AMU).

2. Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

3. Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILLS).

4. Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS).

5. Southern African Development Community (SADC).

6. Centre for Environment and Development, Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE).

---

[1] Except for the Southern Africa Regional Commission for the Conservation and Utilization of the Soil (SARCCUS), which was accorded observer status as an intergovernmental organization by decision 2/3.

[2] A reservation was expressed after the adoption of this decision with respect to the non-governmental organization referred to in paragraph 10 of document A/AC.241/9/Add.13 and Corr.1, in terms of its participation in the Conference of the Parties.

7. Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research/International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (CGIAR/ICRISAT).

8. Southern African Regional Commission for the Conservation and Utilization of Soil (SARCCUS).

Annex IV

ADDITIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TO BE ACCORDED OBSERVER STATUS AT THE FIRST AND SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES

[To be completed]

Decision 10/13

Provisional agenda for the first Conference of the Parties

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee recommends to the first Conference of the Parties the adoption of the following provisional agenda:

1. Election of the President.

2. Adoption of the rules of procedure.

3. Election of other officers.

4. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

5. Credentials of delegations.

6. Accreditation of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, admission of observers.

7. Adoption of recommendations to the Conference of the Parties and other decisions and conclusions requiring action by the Conference:

   (a) Maintenance of interim arrangements referred to in paragraph 13 of General Assembly resolution 51/180, including interim financial arrangements;

   (b) Adoption of the financial rules;

   (c) Approval of the programme and budget:

      (i) Adoption of the Convention budget and programme for the biennium 1998-1999;

      (ii) Related budget decisions;

(iii) Extrabudgetary funding for the secretariat for 1998:

a. Trust Fund for support of the secretariat;

b. Special Voluntary Fund to assist developing countries to participate;

(iv) Programme of work for the second and third Conferences of the Parties;

(d) Designation of a permanent secretariat and arrangements for its functioning:

(i) Institutional linkage;

(ii) Physical location;

(e) Organization to house the global mechanism and agreement on its modalities;

(f) Communication of information and review of implementation, including format and timetable;

(g) Terms of reference of the Committee on Science and Technology;

(h) Programme of work of the Committee on Science and Technology;

(i) Terms of reference of the roster of scientific experts;

(j) Adoption of the procedure for the establishment of ad hoc panels;

(k) Establishment of the roster of experts;

(l) Creation of ad hoc panel(s) of experts, if necessary, with their terms of reference.

Decision 10/14

Resumed tenth session of the Committee

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee decides, pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 50/112 of 20 December 1995 and paragraph 3 of Assembly resolution 51/180 of 16 December 1996, to hold a resumed tenth session at Geneva from 18 to 22 August 1997.

B. Draft decision recommended for adoption by the General Assembly

The Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Use of the Special Voluntary Fund and the Trust Fund

The General Assembly,

Recalling paragraph 15 of its resolution 47/188 of 22 December 1992 relating to a special voluntary fund to assist developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular the least developed countries, to participate fully and effectively in the negotiation process of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the Elaboration of an International Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa,

Recalling also paragraph 13 of its resolution 47/188 and paragraph 8 of resolution 50/112 of 20 December 1995 relating to the possibility of using the trust fund to support the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Committee,

Recalling also paragraph 13 (b) of its resolution 51/180 of 16 December 1996 concerning the maintenance of arrangements relating to extrabudgetary funds,

Noting with pleasure the entry into force of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification Particularly in Africa on 26 December 1996,

1. Decides that the head of the interim secretariat, under the authority of the Secretary-General, shall have the possibility of using the Special Voluntary Fund, as appropriate, to assist developing countries affected by desertification and drought, in particular the least developed countries, to participate fully and effectively in the first Conference of the Parties;

2. Decides further that the head of the interim secretariat, under the authority of the Secretary-General, shall have the possibility of using the Trust Fund, as appropriate, to support also the participation of representatives of non-governmental organizations in the work of the first Conference of the Parties.

APPENDIX III

Summary by the Chairman on the question of special action

1. The debate in plenary on 15 January made it plain that start-up actions on all continents have met the expectations vested in the interim period and provide a sound framework for implementation activities as the Convention enters into force. The commitment of countries has been most heartening. The global dimension of desertification has been eloquently illustrated by the national presentations and the set of measures taken at the local, national and regional levels outline a comprehensive response from the international community.

2. The needs remain immense, however, be they for capacity-building, information or funding. Furthermore, the complexity of the tasks that lie ahead seems more clearly perceived. National action programmes are no longer conceived as singular programming documents spelling out a linear process moving from information to execution of the programme. Rather, they represent processes that synchronize those phases through an iterative methodology that will provide a better scope for participatory eco-development. Regional action programmes should spread the ownership for regional cooperation in the fight against desertification to the main competent institutions in the region. The intense work undertaken during the interim period has laid some of the needed foundations for the necessary convergency between the efforts of affected country Parties and developed country Parties, thus paving the way for gradual progress at the field level of the arid lands marginalized by ecological degradation and poverty.

3. In Africa, we have recorded an impressive level of activities. Institutional, legislative and financial measures have been taken. Policies are under review. National awareness days have clarified issues. Coordination mechanisms have been put in place. Awareness campaigns have been launched. Consultations are being pursued to reach consensus on the adoption of national action programmes. Facilitation funds at the subregional level and desertification funds at the national level have provided limited but concrete support for the interim period. Genuine efforts are being made to include decentralization, participation and further democratization in the development process under the auspices of the Convention. Of course, there are still many areas for improvement: classical and rigid top-down governmental approaches need to be further adjusted, affected countries should express the priority given to the Convention in a more insistent manner in all development forums. On the other hand, developed countries need to move into the process of concrete partnership-building in the light of the ongoing initiatives. Furthermore, the potential of the contribution of the private sector to the development of the drylands must now be mobilized. Similarly, scientific and academic institutions are yet to tune into the Convention's implementation process. In the context of this debate, donors shared information on measures they have taken to support the process and offered views on key methodological points.

4. In Asia, statements from countries have illustrated the seriousness of the threat of desertification in the region. The emerging response to the demands of the implementation process has included national preparatory activities, and

subregional and regional consultations. High technology water resource management, integrated training schemes or greenbelt and afforestation are some of the areas where promising developments would be forthcoming, should support resources be identified.

5. The Russian Federation presented steps taken to achieve accession to the Convention. It noted its proposal on a European Centre for Arid Lands in Kalmakya and encouraged the creation of a global network for scientific research.

6. Latin America highlighted its efforts in the preparation of national action programmes, national networking systems and the intensification of intergovernmental technical cooperation. The creation of advisory groups and the involvement of non-governmental organizations are being encouraged. Legislative provisions have been adopted. Countries have emphasized the need to mitigate poverty in order to reach the objectives of the Convention.

7. Activities have also taken place in the northern Mediterranean region. Coordination under the fourth regional annex aims at a gradual identification of regional priority issues. The national action programme of Spain will be released this year and will provide a reference for the treatment of questions more specifically related to the conditions of the region.

8. All the while, a core of supporting multilateral agencies, despite severe financial constraints, have provided some of the required support and sought together, in a pragmatic manner, to identify their comparative advantages in responding to the countries' perceived needs and in identifying the respective areas of complementarity. Other multilateral agencies are being sensitized to the Convention and may now review or formulate their specific role in the light of the entry into force of this unique instrument.

9. Generally, the debate showed that the Convention has already contributed to the launching of an impressive range of actions; in particular, the urgent action for Africa has given many useful indications for the continued implementation of the Convention.